

This Week In Agriculture

March 27, 2006

April 2006

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Upcoming events

2006 University of Idaho Extension Annual Conference. April 3-6 in Idaho Falls. Call 529-8376 for information.

75th FFA State Leadership Conference. April 6-8 in Twin Falls. Call 334-3216 for information. Congressional Fact Finding

Idaho Cattle Association Spring Board Meeting April 26-27, 2006 at River Ranch in Idaho falls. For more information call 343-1615

Idaho Aquaculture Association quarterly board meeting is being held on April 12 at 4 p.m. at the Rangen Research Lab in Hagerman. For more information call Linda Lemon at 208-539-1730.

This Week in Agriculture is a publication of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

To submit articles or subscribe to this newsletter, email rmason@idahoag.us

ISDA launches Farm Bill 2007 website

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has added Farm Bill information to its website in an effort to keep Idahoans up-to-date as the legislation is reauthorized next year.

"The Farm Bill represents an important piece of public policy," Department Director Pat Takasugi said. "This website will be used as a one-stop shop to find out what issues are being discussed as Congress re-

examines the Farm Bill. This site will also provide people with a place to leave comments and questions about the Farm Bill. That information will then be shared with Idaho's congressional delegation and Governor Kempthorne."

Takasugi said he will use the website to share documents that he receives as he travels the country discussing Idaho's position on Farm Bill changes.

"Often, state agriculture directors pick up documents and other reading materials at meetings and events tied to the Farm Bill reauthorization. Thanks to this website, you will now have access to the same information that I see."

The Farm Bill web portal can be found through Idaho State Department of Agriculture, <http://www.idahoag.us>.

First Idaho chipping potatoes arrive in Japan



These pictures show the arrival of the first batch of fresh Idaho potatoes to make it to Japan since a 60-year-old ban was lifted last month.

Under an agreement announced on February 2, imports of potatoes to be processed into potato chips are allowed to approved plants. More information is available at <http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/NewsEvents/Documents/PressReleases>

Public notice

Opportunity to provide written submissions or documents

The Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture intends to issue a determination pursuant to Idaho Code § 22-4803(1) concerning economically viable alternatives to thermal disposal of crop residue. In accordance with the requirements of § 22-4803(1), the Director will determine whether economically viable alternatives exist to burning for the purpose of (1) disposing of crop residues, (2) developing physiological conditions conducive to increased crop yields, or (3) controlling diseases, insects, pests or weed infestations.

Written or electronic submissions of documents pertaining to the determination will be considered by the Director if received by 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time, May 15, 2006. Any such items should be addressed or delivered to the attention of:

Patrick A. Takasugi
Director
Idaho State Department
of Agriculture
P.O. Box 790
2270 Old Penitentiary Rd
Boise, Idaho 83712

Email:
asmp@agri.state.id.us

Idaho announces e-Health certificate system

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Animal Health Laboratory has announced a new option for equine veterinarians and horse owners when testing horses and obtaining official certificates for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), an incurable viral disease of horses and other equids. Online electronic Equine Infectious Anemia (eEIA) certificates have been successfully implemented nationwide via GlobalVetLink (GVL), located in Ames, Iowa. By law, a negative EIA test and certificate is required for horses, mules and asses when traveling interstate.

"GlobalVetLink allows veterinarians to create USDA-approved electronic EIA certificates on-line with a simple point-and-click. GVL sends the information to our state diagnostic laboratory simultaneously as the veterinarian sends the sample in for testing", said Animal Health Lab Director and ISDA veterinarian, Dr. Marilyn Simunich.

Veterinarians can now print the certificate with negative test results at their own clinic just seconds after results are reported from the lab to Global Vet Link (GVL) through a web portal. Electronic EIA certificates can be created any time. No longer will the vet-

erinarian's office have to order, inventory, mail or file the multi-part federal forms.

The system also enables the veterinarian to add digital photos of all animals, doing away with sketching of the animal's markings, providing horse owners and clients greater accuracy for identification purposes. To see an example of an eEIA certificate or to see other services offered by GVL, go to www.globalvetlink.com.

Contact Dr. Simunich at 208.332.8547 or msimunich@idahoag.us if you have questions about the program.

Leadership training sessions slated for rural Idaho

Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) is rolling out a one-day leadership training opportunity for business and community leaders throughout Idaho.

"The leadership training shows the true power of partnership," IRP executive director Dale Dixon said. "We're bringing together the expertise of Tom Hudson and Rick Waitley along with the significant support of Monsanto and Qwest to offer a valuable resource."

The fast-paced, information packed day will provide tangible knowledge to emerging and established leaders in rural communities. The day starts with an assessment of rural Idaho by Dixon, then Tom Hudson leads a hands-on exercise in community development. Rick Waitley will show participants how to run an efficient, organized and produc-

tive meeting during his popular *Effective Meetings* session. Dixon rounds out the day with a communication-message mapping exercise.

Participants will learn about Idaho's top resources for rural communities and will leave inspired to lead their communities.

The training schedule starts in Sandpoint, on Monday, April 10, and concludes in Caldwell, on Tuesday, May 2. Training will be conducted in 12 communities.

The sessions start at 8:00 a.m. and finish by 4:30 p.m. The registration fee of \$15

includes lunch and materials. Pre-registration is required and is available via the web at <http://irp.idaho.gov> or by calling (208) 334-3131. The Moscow session is coordinated with the Becky Anderson Made-In-America conference.

Training Dates & Locations

Monday, April 10:	Sandpoint
Tuesday, April 11:	Post Falls
Wednesday, April 12:	Moscow
Thursday, April 13:	Kamiah
Friday, April 14:	Fruitland
Monday, April 24:	Rexburg
Tuesday, April 25:	Preston
Wednesday, April 26:	Pocatello
Thursday, April 27:	Burley
Friday, April 28:	Jerome
Monday, May 1:	M. Home
Tuesday, May 2:	Caldwell